



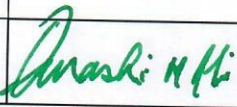
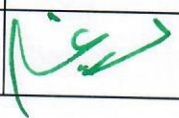



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY-SUDAN [NUSU]

Research Policy

	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE	DATE
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	Title of Committee	SIGNATURE of Head of Committee	DATE
REVIEWED BY	Council for Research, Ethics and Postgraduate Studies	 	25/2/2018

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1 Purpose

This policy establishes the research environment which enables academic staff and postgraduate research students from in and outside the university to carry out their Research projects and pursue high standard training programmes. It also aims at serving our local community targeting different community related health and developmental issues.

2 Organizational Scope

This is a University-wide statute.

3 Definitions

For purposes of this statute, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Academic Staff	Includes all staff that have a contractual obligation to carry out
NU-REC	National University Research Ethics Committee
Associate Dean	The person in each faculty who is responsible for the approval of all administrative decisions and for all academic matters related to the postgraduate research degree programs of candidates within their faculty
Associate Dean/Deputy Dean (Research)	The person in each faculty who is responsible for Research The persons who are governing academic and research issues in their faculties and liaison between their faculty, faculty research committee(s) and NU-REC
Council	The governing body of the University
Creative works	Definition included in the definition of Research

Dean	Dean of a Faculty
FPGSR	Faculty of Postgraduates and Scientific Research
PBRF	Performance Based Research Fund
PDCP	Performance Development and Career Planning
PGR	Postgraduate Research

Research

Research is original, independent* investigation undertaken to contribute to knowledge and understanding and, in the case of some disciplines, cultural innovation or aesthetic refinement. Research typically involves inquiry of an experimental or critical nature driven by hypothesis or intellectual positions capable of rigorous assessment by experts in a given discipline.

Research includes work of direct relevance to the specific needs of our local Communities, government, industry and commerce. In some disciplines, Research may be embodied in the form of artistic works, performances or designs that lead to new or substantially improved insights. Research may include: contributions to the intellectual underpinning of subjects and disciplines (for example, dictionaries and scholarly editions) the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved, materials, devices, products, communications or processes the synthesis and analysis of previous Research to the extent that it is new and creative.

Research findings must be open to scrutiny or formal evaluation by experts within the field. This may be achieved through various forms of dissemination including but not limited to, publication, manufacture, construction, public presentation, or provision of confidential reports.

Research does not include activities that are part of routine standard practice or outputs that do not embody original Research. This excludes: routine testing, data-collection, preparation for teaching where it does not embody original Research the legal and administrative aspects of commercialization activities and professional activities that do not embody original Research. [PBRF definition]

*The term "independent" does not exclude collaborative work.

Researcher	Person employed by the University to undertake Research
Scholarship	The undertaking of scholarship in the context of Research is as per the definition of Research
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
NURC	National University Research Committee
DPGSR	Dean faculty of Postgraduate and scientific research
MA-NURI	Managerial National University Research Institute
NURF	The National University Research Fund (NURF) is a part of the Research investment identified by the university upper management towards research
NUUM	National University Upper management including: President, Vice president and Principal

4 Policy Content and Guidelines

4.1 Requirement to Undertake Research

- (a) Each researcher will carry out independent Research, scholarship and/or creative activities that are appropriate to their discipline. In doing so they will, individually or in collaboration with colleagues:
- (i) supervise Research students;
 - (ii) broadly disseminate Research results (i.e. through more than one medium or one audience) including through their teaching practices and, where appropriate, protect the results of their Research;
 - (iii) be active within appropriate professional and discipline communities and external stakeholders;

- (iv) contribute to the Research environment and culture through activities such as mentoring, engagement in new Research initiatives and strengthening the Research infrastructure; and Participate in initiatives designed to secure financial support for Research activities from external sources (including for example, government funding, industry partnerships and commercialization opportunities.
- (b) The requirement to undertake Research is a career expectation and will be balanced with the other obligations of academic staff including teaching and administrative responsibilities.
- (c) Nothing in this policy is to be construed so as to prevent deans of faculties from allocating teaching and other administrative responsibilities

4.2 Statutory and Ethics Obligations

- (a) Academic staff and students are required to carry out their Research in compliance with all the University's obligations under legislation and any ethical obligations.
- (b) Research projects that involve human or animal subjects, including those undertaken as part of a teaching program, must be approved in advance

4.3 Research Management

Policy and advice in Research matters is coordinated through a number of bodies and committees.

- (a) NURC, chaired by the DFGSR and MA-NURI, is the University's senior research management body. It advises SLT and informs Academic Board on Research strategies to be pursued, develops policy (including strategic and scholarships policy for Research students) and reviews progress in these areas.
- (b) Faculties and Schools are required to establish Research committees to support the research activities of their staff and postgraduate thesis students. Both committees are expected to comply with and oversee the implementation of university-wide Research policies. Faculty Research committees are formed by deans to advise the NURC and their own faculties on Research matters.
- (c) The Research Office provides Research services for staff. This support includes but is not limited to.
 - i. Assisting NURC with coordinating the activities of its subcommittees and monitoring external Research policy developments

- ii. Managing NURF
- iii. Securing and supporting external Research funding from the public and private sectors
- iv. Monitoring and reporting on externally funded Research grants
- v. Providing professional development opportunities for staff to enhance their Research performance.
- vi. The FPGSR is responsible for oversight of the quality of PGR and enhancement of the PGR student experience.

4.4 Resources in Support of Research

(a) University Research Fund

- i. The general principle governing the allocation of all Research funding in the University is that it is an investment intended to maximize the range of outcomes that the University expects to result from staff and student Research. The Allocations and Investment Subcommittee of the NURC allocates grants from this fund.
- ii. A portion of the NURF supports early career researchers and staff members of different levels who are in their first five years at the National University and have not received external Research funding support.
- iii. A portion of the NURF is allocated to strategic support of external funding bids and partnerships.

(b) Faculty Research Grants

Faculties may allocate Research funding according to:

- i. Their internal processes.
- ii. External contracts/external Research provisions and obligations

All applications for any external Research funding are to be submitted through the NURC.

- i. All research contracted by an external party is administered by the NURC.
- ii. The NURC provides the contract, financial and non-financial management services for the University's grant management process.

- iii. Academic staffs are eligible to apply for leave in support of their Research including Research and Study Leave, Conference Leave, and Exchange Leave. Faculty committees recommend the award of such academic leave to their Faculty's deans for approval.
- iv. A range of scholarships are available centrally and through the Faculties and Schools to support PGR students.

4.5 Research Planning

Each Faculty, and its constituent academic units, is required to develop and implement its own Research plan including students' research projects that is consistent with and delivers to the University Research Strategy and the University Strategic Plan.

4.6 Evaluation and Monitoring of Performance

- (a) Research outcomes are evaluated via: publications, promotions, patency, securing of grants ...
- (b) Staffs are required to annually complete the staff PDCP process through which their Research performance can be evaluated.
- (c) Staffs are required to supply full and accurate details of their Research outputs to DI-NURI.
- (d) The DI-NURI will publish an annual list of staff and student publications in the university website. Incentives are paid for each publication from the National University.

4.7 Recruitment and Staff Development

- i. Academic staff are required as part of the annual PDCP process to prepare a Research plan and to review that plan annually in consultation with their Head of departments. Consultation should include a review of: Research objectives, anticipated applications for external Research funds, details of other initiatives to secure financial support for their Research activities, opportunities for collaboration, timelines and expected outputs for the dissemination of their Research results, protection of their Research results where appropriate, supervision opportunities, activities within the Research community, activities to enhance the impact of their Research. The PDCP process should also identify the support staff needs to facilitate their Research and

scholarship, and reflect any special agreements reached regarding teaching, administration, Research duties and Research training and/or development opportunities for Research according to the career stage of the staff member.

- ii. Faculties are required to adopt a procedure to ensure that workload issues are considered before the approval of the enrolment of PGR students.
- iii. Deans should ensure that newly appointed staff are familiar with Research evaluations, Research training and funding opportunities and the importance of publishing in suitable venues, both within the University and external to it.

4.8 Postgraduate Student Research

The Dean (FPGSR), deans of other faculties, are responsible for ensuring that the management of PGR degrees complies with the relevant University Statutes, policies and procedures (see the policy website).

4.9 Publication and Intellectual Property

- (a) The National University expects all Research outputs will be publicly available.
- (b) Research outputs may be withheld by the University where “good reason” exists.

4.10 Research Institutes

4.10.1 Characteristics of Research Institutes

- (a) The University establishes Research Institute to raise the Research profile of the University, focus strengths in areas where there is (or the University wishes to develop) a concentration of Research excellence (including areas of applied Research) and to maximise external Research funding. Research Institute help position and promote the

University's areas of Research excellence and build the University's Research reputation.

They also serve as vehicles for engaging with other Research institutions and industry and facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary relationships.